(b) if so, the total number of subscribers to be benefited out of it?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has also ratified an interest rate of 9.5% for the year 2004-05 to be credited to the accounts of the members of the Employees' Provident Fund.

(b) All members of the Employees' Provident Fund, i.e. 400.92 lakh subscribers as on 31.03.2004, will be benefited.

**Grant to the parents of child labourers**

†1959. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that acute poverty compels parents to send their child to work as a labourer;

(b) whether Government propose to provide monthly grant to the parents of child labourers in order to ensure that they do not sent their child to work; and

(c) if so, the amount per month proposed to be provided and the amount to be spent annually on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K.CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to rehabilitate the working children and mainstreaming them into formal system of education, Government is implementing National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) since 1988. Under the said Scheme, apart from providing the working children with free educational & vocational training & material, nutrition, health care, etc. a monthly stipend of Rs. 100/- is also deposited in the account of every child enrolled in special schools. The consolidated amount of stipend is disbursed to the children at the time of their main streaming into formal system of education. The amount spent on the NCLP Scheme during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 was Rs. 6513.77 lakh, Rs. 6783.00 lakh and Rs. 9315.80 lakh respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.